REALITY ONLINE THE INFORMATION SOURCE FOR ESTHETIC DENTISTRY

JULY 2011

25th Anniversary

The Ratings | HEADLIGHTS - LED

2







RAVES & RANTS

- + Extremely lightweight control unit/battery pack
- + 2 batteries included in price
- Battery only lasts two hours when used at high setting
- Small area of coverage

MANUFACTURER

DentLight www.dentlight.com

PRICES

\$599.00

WARRANTY

1 year

Nano

INTRODUCTION/MANUFACTURER'S CLAIMS

Lightweight LED headlight with very small battery pack.

CONTROL UNIT/BATTERY PACK

Black aluminum rectangular shape that resembles a very small mobile phone. The soft touch, slightly raised power and intensity level buttons are in the middle of the front surface. The power button is yellow and is in the center, while blue intensity buttons, indicated by a "+" and "-", are on the right and left respectively (if it is clipped to your belt or waistband). The control unit itself has no clothing attachment — you insert it into a leather-like pouch that has a clear pliable plastic front surface, a flap-over snap top, and a plastic clip on the back. The pouch allows you to control the headlight without actually touching the buttons, but unlike other barriers, it is not disposable. It also has two small openings on the bottom: one for the headlight cord and the other for the charger connection.

When you push the power button, there is a short audible beep. When the light is turned off, it beeps again, but this time the beep is longer. Upon activation, the power level of the light is displayed as one, two, or three green LEDs immediately above the power button. The "+" and "-" buttons are pushed depending on whether you want more or less light. A beep sounds each time you press either of the buttons. The power levels are low, medium, and high. However, the unit does not remember your preferred power level unless you use it on the low setting, which is the default whenever the light is activated.

Half of the evaluators really liked the design, while the other half thought it was acceptable. On the other hand, all but one evaluator thought it was easy to change the settings.

CONTROL UNIT DIMENSIONS

HEIGHT	WIDTH	THICKNESS
3.2in/8.2cm	1.9in/4.8cm	0.7in/1.8cm

CONTROL UNIT WEIGHT

3.7oz/104.9g (including the pouch). With this control unit being the lightest we have ever tested, it is obviously understandable that all evaluators considered this weight acceptable.

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BATTERY

Lithium ion battery sealed inside the control unit. To recharge, you merely connect the control unit directly to an AC outlet via the charger provided with the unit. There is an LED on the control panel that glows green during charging and turns off when it is fully charged. Although there are two batteries with the unit, you can also use the headlight plugged into an AC outlet if necessary. On the high setting, the battery will provide power for about 2 hours and will be fully recharged in about 2.25 hours, although you will most likely be charging it overnight. There is also an audible beeping signal to let you know that you are about to run out of power.

All of our evaluators considered the battery life and recharging time acceptable.

SIZE OF SPOT @ 14.0IN/35.6CM

2.1in/5.4cm. Unlike most other lights, this one is square in outline. As noted specifically by one evaluator, the size of the spot is quite small.

POWER @ 14.0IN/35.6CM

FOOT-CANDLES	LUX
3465	37,300

Most (75%) of the evaluators thought the illumination level was more than enough, while the other 25% considered it to be acceptable.

COMPOSITE WORKING TIME @ 14.0IN/35.6CM

HIGH POWER	LOW POWER	FILTER
30 seconds	45 seconds	>5 minutes

UMBILICAL LENGTH

3.7ft /1.1m

HEADLIGHT (WITH FILTER INSTALLED)

DIAMETER	WEIGHT
0.9in/23.7mm	0.8oz/22.7g

All evaluators considered the size and weight of the headlight to be acceptable.

FILTER

Installation does not require any tools. There is a simple, black plastic holder with a groove in the middle that merely slips onto a circular extension in the headlight casing and allows you to flip the filter up or down using the small handle. However, finding this handle without touching your face and/or moving the headlight can be difficult. You may want to have your dental assistant perform this task. All but one evaluator thought it was reasonably easy to move the filter up and down.

IRIS ADJUSTMENT

None.

REALITY

NANO

Strengths Smallest and lightest control unit/battery pack. Controls are easy to use. Plenty of power for a small light. Two batteries and AC option keep you working without interruption. Audible warning when battery is running low. Filter is easy to remove and install. Relatively inexpensive.

Weaknesses No iris adjustment. Spot size is quite small. Universal mount on loupes did not fit all loupes and can interfere with adjusting interpupillary distance on loupes.

BOTTOM LINE Small size, minimal weight, and reasonable price along with above average illumination make this headlight a good choice although the small spot size could be a limiting factor.

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